6 OTHER CEQA-REQUIRED SECTIONS

6.1 GROWTH-INDUCING EFFECTS

CEQA Section 21100(b)(5) specifies that the growth-inducing impacts of a project must be addressed in an EIR. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) states that a proposed project is growth-inducing if it could "foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." Direct growth inducement would result if a project, for example, involved the construction of new housing. Indirect growth inducement would result if a project established substantial new permanent employment opportunities (e.g., new commercial, industrial, or governmental enterprises), involved a construction effort with substantial short-term employment opportunities that would indirectly stimulate the need for additional housing and services, or removed an obstacle to housing development. Examples of growth-inducing actions include developing water, wastewater, fire, or other types of service in areas not previously served by those services, extending transportation routes into previously undeveloped areas, and establishing major new employment opportunities.

Implementation of the proposed project would include construction, operation, and maintenance that would be accomplished by contractors whose work would be overseen by State Parks and TNC. These activities would generate short-term employment opportunities; however, the work would be temporary and would occur over a 3-year period with certain activities starting and stopping for shorter durations within this time period. Because of the limited number and type of new jobs that would be generated and the temporary nature of those jobs, it is anticipated that the new jobs would be filled using the existing local employment pool. Existing available housing in the region would easily accommodate any workers who relocate from outside the area, if needed. No new permanent jobs would be created by the project. Therefore, indirect growth-inducing impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant.

The proposed project would occur on property owned by State Parks (the Nicolaus property is currently owned by TNC, but would be transferred to State Parks as part of the proposed project, prior to implementation of the project). These properties would be managed by State Parks to facilitate creation of a linked network of lands between the project site and the other BSRSP subunits. The proposed project represents a type of project that is consistent with the purposes and existing use of BSRSP. Implementation of the proposed project would not involve construction of housing nor would it involve extension of public services facilities or development of a service area. BSRSP is not nor would be served by public sewer or water connections; rather, the Park uses and would continue use onsite septic systems and groundwater wells. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in direct growth-inducing effects, and no impact would occur.

6.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

CEQA Section 21100(b)(2)(B) provides that an EIR shall include a detailed statement setting forth "[i]n a separate section… [a]ny significant effect on the environment that would be irreversible if the project is implemented." State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c) provides the following guidance for an analysis of significant irreversible changes of a project:

> Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.

Activities related to implementation of the proposed project would include orchard removal, discing, seeding, and planting, which represent standard agricultural practices already in use throughout the study area. Irrigation system modification and expansion would include standard trench and backfill techniques. These activities are reflective of existing conditions in the study area and would not involve new or expanded uses of nonrenewable resources.

In addition to the habitat restoration of the Singh and Nicolaus properties, the proposed project would include the development of public access and outdoor recreation facilities including trails, day-use areas, overnight camping facilities, parking lots, and restrooms. Construction of these facilities would require use of construction equipment that use petroleum fuels, such as gasoline and diesel. The use of such fuels would be a short-term temporary expenditure and would not substantially increase the overall demand for these products.

The proposed project would restore agricultural land to native riparian habitat, removing it from agricultural production. As discussed in Section 4.2, "Agricultural Resources," the project would re-establish natural processes and functions that support native riparian habitat, including the formation of the types of soils that gave these sites their original agricultural value. Because the agricultural value of the soil is tied directly to the natural conditions and processes that existed before commercial agricultural development of the land, habitat restoration efforts would in effect preserve (and possibly improve over time) the agricultural value of the soil (Tilman et al. 1996 and 2002). Furthermore, the proposed recreational facilities would be sufficiently limited in nature such that it would be feasible to return the lands to another resource-based use, such as agricultural production, at some future time. Therefore, the project would not constitute an irreversible conversion of agricultural land.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in an irreversible use of some nonrenewable resources (e.g., petroleum fuels); however, the use of nonrenewable resources would be minor and this impact is considered less than significant.

6.3 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

CEQA Section 21100(b)(2)(A) provides that an EIR shall include a detailed statement setting forth "[i]n a separate section… [a]ny significant effect on the environment that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented." Chapter 4 of this DEIR provides descriptions of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project for all applicable environmental topic areas, as well as mitigation measures to mitigate project effects. Cumulative effects are discussed in Chapter 5 of this DEIR. Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce all of the identified significant impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, implementation of this project would result in no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.